

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The salient features of Visesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana *inter alia* are to incentivise exports of Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Minor Forest Produce, Dairy, Poultry and their value added products. The scheme also aims to promote export of Gram Udyog products. Exports of eligible products under the scheme are entitled for duty credit scrip equivalent to 5% of the FOB value of exports. In order to promote the use of indigenous agricultural inputs, the duty credit scrip is reduced to 3.5% where the exporters avails duty free import of agriculture inputs (other than catalysts, consumables and packing materials). The new scheme notified w.e.f. 1/4/2006 retains all such agriculture products which were eligible under Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana as on 31/3/2006.

Effect of mall culture on small shopkeepers

2260. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that small shopkeepers, selling consumer goods, are facing enormous trouble due to the unprecedented acceleration of mall culture created by big business houses;
- (b) whether Government have planned any mechanism to protect the business and earnings of the small shopkeepers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No such specific information is available with the Government.

(b) to (d) FDI in multi brand retailing is not permitted and even for single brand product retailing FDI is restricted to 51% which requires prior approval of the Government.